Creation of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

474. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Budget 2007-08, about sixty five crores have been earmarked to set up National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

(b) whether it is also a fact that thirty five crores out of sixty five crores have been earmarked for rehabilitation of affected people from tiger reserves;

(c) whether it is also a fact that on the initiative of Prime Minister a Tiger Task Force (TTF) has been set up which is an expensive and costly agenda for Tiger Authority:

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to curtail some, plans before the TCA and TTF an jeopardized; and

(e) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) During current financial year (2007-08) an allocation of Rs. 65.00 crores has been provided for protection and conservation of tiger under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, which includes Rs. 30.00 crores for relocation of villages from the core areas of tiger reserves.

(c) Based on the recommendations of the National Board for Wildlife under the Chairmanship of the/ Prime Minister, a Tiger Task Force was constituted to review the problems of tiger conservation in the country. The said Tiger Task Force had submitted its report with urgent recommendations, which have been accepted for implementation to strengthen tiger conservation, based on ground reality.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Conversion of degraded forest land into green land

†475. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to change six million hectare degraded' forest land into green land;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the plan to implement this decision;

(c) whether any time limit has been set in this plan; and

(d) if so, the time limit set to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has mooted a draft strategy to step-up forestation and the greening of degraded forest lands, so as to achieve the goal of one-third forest or tree cover envisaged in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

National Forest Policy. 1988. The draft strategy mooted above, proposes, besides Stepped-up allocations for tree planting by various Ministries of the Government, mobilization of resources by stakeholders outside the government in their rational self-interest, and other policy and administrative reforms in the forestry and allied sectors.

(b) to (d) In view of above, questions do not arise.

Funds for preservation of forests and wildlife

476. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of money meant lor preservation of forests and wildlife has accumulated with the Union Government and is lying unused for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether Government have not yet utilized it despite orders of the Supreme Court, and if so. the reasons therefor:

(d) the steps being taken/taken so far b\ Union Government to formulate a policy to utilize the accumulated funds on afforestation and conservation; and

(e) the steps taken expected to be taken by Government to check diversion of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) The- Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, *vide* order dated 29.10.2002 in WP(C) No. 202 of 1995. directed that Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land diverted lor non-forestry purposes with the prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act. 1980 shall be paid by the User Agencies in addition to other usual' payments for Compensatory Afforestation. Conservation and Protection ot Nalional Parks/Sanctuaries etc. The Hon'ble Court also directed that the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) shall constitute a body for management of the funds received on account of diversion of forest land in the country under the forest (Conservation) Act. 1980. In compliance of the above order of the Hob-ble Supreme Court, the Ministry of Environment and Forests issued a Notification dated 2.5.04.2004 for constitution of Compensatory Afforestation fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). The process of obtaining Cabinet approval to the revised CAMPA Notification is underway.

Meanwhile, the Hon'ble Supreme Conic vide order dated 05.05.2006. observed that CAMPA had still not become operational, and hence, constituted an Ad-hoc Body of CAMPA in the Ministry of Environment and Forests for transfer of all the funds recovered on behalf of the CAMPA. which were then lying with the State/ Union Territory Governments, and to get II audited.

So far. an amount of about Rs. 5.000 crore has been received by the Ad-hoc body of CAMPA from various States Union Territories towards Compensatory